Police officers including the A.S.P. Hubli have been patrolling the area. Armed pickets at important points have been fixed. The Superintendent of Police has also visited the area. The situation is reported to be peaceful.

(iv) *re:* DEATH OF BISONS IN BANDIPUR GAME SANCTUARY

SRI K. H. SRINIVASA (Sagar).—I call the attention of the Minister of State for Forests to the death of bisons in Bandipur Game Sanctuary due to epidemic of rinderpest.

SRI ALUR HANUMANTHAPPA (Minister of State for Forests).—Deaths of bisons were noticed in Bandipur Game Sanctuary during the third week of August 1968 and the news was conveyed to the Veterinary authorities in Mysore. They visited Bandipur and confirmed that the deaths were caused due to epidemic of rinderpest which is said to be prevalent in the neighouring District of Niligirs of Madras State. The Veterinary Officers have indicated that heavy lacrimation and purging are the external symptoms of attack of rinderpest. The Divisional Forest Officer, Chamarajanagar, has reported that these symptoms were not found in all the affected bisons at Bandipur. He also made arrangements to burn the dead bodies of bisons or bury them in deep pits with lot of slacked lime as instructed by the District Veterinary Officer, Mysore.

It is estimated that 40 bisons have died in Bandipur Sanctuary till 5th September 1968 although 20 bisons have been actually seen. It is reported that there has been no attack of epidemic on other animals in the Bandipur Sanctuary or outside and no death of either deer or other animals is noticed. Similarly, there has not been any death of wild animals in Biligirirangna Hills. The Superintendent of Police, Mysore, has been requested to stop the movement of all the domestic animals from Niligiri District into Mysore by suitably instructing the border checking staff at Kakkanalla and Panjur.

This incident has already seriously engaged the attention of the Officers of both the Forest and Animal Husbandry Departments and necessary action is being taken to obtain necessary equipment through the Animal Husbandry Department to administer the necessary medicine to the bisons.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

SECRETARY.—I beg to lay on the Table of the House the first list of Unstarred Questions and Answers.